

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 071605Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6228

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3408

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT: SOVIET POSITION ON INDIAN OCEAN
NEGOTIATIONS

1. AS EMBASSY MOSCOW HAS ALREADY REPORTED, SOVIETS SIDESTEPED QUESTION OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE BILATERALLY ON LIMITING NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS IN INDIAN OCEAN DURING MEETINGS BETWEEN SUPREME SOVIET AND CODEL. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTION BY SENATOR CULVER AS TO WHETHER THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO LIMIT RECIPROCALLY NUMBER OF SHIP/DAYS OF DEPLOYMENTS IN INDIAN OCEAN, ARBATOV VAGUELY REFERRED TO SOVIET PROPOSALS ON MEDITERRANEAN AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN TO ANY U.S. PROPOSALS. SOMEWHAT LATER IN DISCUSSION HE RETURNED TO THIS SUBJECT, SAYING THAT U.S. AND USSR COULD NOT "DICTATE SITUATION IN AREA" BUT SHOULD TAKE VIEWS OF LITTORIAL STATES INTO ACCOUNT. CULVER WAS DISAPPOINTED BY EVASIVENESS OF REPLY AND EXPECTED IT TO COME UP DURING TALK WITH BREZHNEV, BUT IT DID NOT.

2. CULVER BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF BILATERAL INDIAN OCEAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV AT SPASO DINNER LATER SAME DAY, JULY 1. ACCORDING TO CULVER, KUZNETSOV ALSO WAS EVASIVE ABOUT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, REFERRING TO NEED TO DISCUSS IOZP PROPOSALS OF LITTORAL
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STATES.

3. ON JULY 3 IN LENINGRAD, AFTER SENATOR CULVER HAD SPLIT OFF FROM CODEL, ARBATOV APPROACHED SENATOR HART SAYING THAT HE FEARED SOVIET SIDE HAD NOT MADE ITS POLICY ON INDIAN OCEAN CLEAR. ARBATOV SAID THAT "OF COURSE" SOVIET SIDE INTERESTED IN TALKING TO U.S. ABOUT LIMITING NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS. HART SAID THAT ARBATOV DID NOT SPECIFY THAT SAID TALKS SHOULD BE BILATERAL, BUT THAT IT WAS CLEAR FROM CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION THAT THIS WAS WHAT HE HAD IN MIND.

4. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPT. ESCORT OFFICER, BOTH HART AND CULVER (WHO SUBSEQUENTLY REJOINED DELEGATION) SAID THEY REALIZED ARBATOV'S JULY COMMENT MAY NOT REPRESENT SOVIET POLICY BUT ONLY EFFORT TO LOBBY AGAINST DIEGO GARCIA. GOULD

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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